

and protection of the great ones, and so had intended circumspectly to perfoime the whole expedition.

This was the most furious and bloodie skirmish of all, in which the lord Admirall of England continued fighting amidst his enemies Fleet, and seeing one of his Captaines as farre frustrate my hope and opinion conceived of thee: Oh George what doest thou? While thou now woudest bee being enflamed, approached forthwith, encountered the enemy, and did the part of a most valiant Captaine. His name was George Fenner, a man that had bene conuersant in many Sea-fights.

In this conflict there was a certaine great Venetian ship with other small ships surprised and taken by the English.

The English naue in the meane while increased, whereunto out of all Hauens of the Reame resorted ships and men: for they all with one accord came flocking thither as vnto a set field, where in mynistrall fame and glory was to be attained, and faithfull seruice to bee performed vnto their prince and countrey.

In which number there were many great and honourable personages, as namely, the Earles of Oxford, of Northumberland, of Cumberland, &c. with many Knights and Gentlemen: as wit, Sir Thomas Cecill, Sir Robert Cecil, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir William Harbottle, Sir Horatio Palauicini, Sir Henry Brooke, Sir Robert Carew, Sir Charles Blunt, Master Ambrose Willoughbie, Master Henry Nowell, Master Thomas Gerard, Master Henry Dudley, Master Edward Darcie, Master Arthur Gorge, Master Thomas Woodhouse, Master William Harwicke, &c. And so it came to passe that the number of the English shippes amounted vnto an hundred and thirtie, which when they were come before Douer, were increased to an hundred and thirtie, bring notwithstanding of no proportionable bignesse to encounter with the Spaniards, excepte two or thre and twentie of the Quenes greater shippes, which onely, by reason of their presence, byed an opinion in the Spaniards minde concerning the power of the English Fleet: the mariners and souldiers whereof were esteemed to be twelue thousand.

The foure and twentie of July when as the sea was calme, and no winde stirring, the fight was onely betwene the foure great Gallies and the English shippes, which being rowed with Oares, had great vantage of the sayde English shippes, which notwithstanding for all this would not bee forced to yeeld, but discharged their chaine-shot to cut asunder their Cables and Cordage of the Gallies, with many other such Stratagemes. They were now constrained to send their men on land for a newe supplie of Gunne-powder, whereof they were in great scarcitie, by reason they had so frankly spent the greater part in the former conflicts.

The same day, a Counsell being assembled, it was decreed that the English Fleet should be deuised into foure squadrons: the principall whereof was committed vnto the lord Admirall: the second, to Sir Francis Drake: the third, to Captaine Hawkins: the fourth, to Captaine Frobisher.

The Spaniards in their sailing obserued very diligent and good order, sayling thre and foure, and sometimes more ships in a ranke, and following close by one after another, and the stronger and greater ships protecting the lesser.

The five and twentie of July when the Spaniards were come over-against the Ile of Wight, the lord Admirall of England being accompanied with his best ships, (namely the Lion, Captaine whereof was the lord Thomas Howard: The Elizabeth Jonas vnder the commandement of Sir Robert Southwell some in lawe vnto the lord Admirall: the Beare vnder the lord Sheffield nephew vnto the lord Admirall: the Victorie vnder Captaine Barker: and the Galeon Leicester vnder the forenamed Captaine George Fenner) with great valour and dead fullthundering of shot, encountered the Spanish Admirall being in the very midst of all his Fleet. Which when the Spaniard perceived, being assisted with his strongest ships, he came forth and entered a terrible combat with the English: for they bestowed each on other the broad sides, and mutually discharged all their Ordnance, being within one hundred, or an hundred and twentie paces one of another.

At length the Spaniards hoisted by their sayles, and againe gathered themselves by close into the forme of a roundel. In the meane while Captaine Frobisher had engaged himselfe into a most dangerous conflict. Whereupon the lord Admirall comming to succour him, found that hee had valiantly and discretely behaved himselfe, and that hee had wisely and in good time giuen

A great Venetian ship and other small ships taken by the English.

The 24. of July.

The 25. of July.